

Semi-Weekly Standard.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

RALEIGH: FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1863.

OUR NEW TERMS.

We have announced that in consequence of the excessive advance of all articles of living, and the cost of publishing the Standard, that after the 15th of the present month, (February), our rates of charges will be as follows:

For Semi-Weekly a year, \$5.00 in advance.
" " 6 months, " 3.00 "
" " 3 months, " 1.50 "

Advertising \$1 per square of 14 lines for first insertion, and 50 cents for subsequent insertions.

Persons sending a less sum than the above, after the 15th inst., will be credited according to the above rates. SPECIAL NOTICE.—All papers are discontinued at the expiration of the time for which they have been paid. Subscribers will be notified FOUR WEEKS before their time is out, by a CROSS MARK on their papers; and unless the subscription is renewed the paper will be discontinued. This is a rule from which there will be no departure. Watch for the cross mark, and renew your subscription.

Subscribers desiring their papers changed must mention the Post Office from, as well as the one to, which they desire the change to be made. February 4, 1863.

Half Sheet.

Owing to the scarcity of paper, we are compelled to issue a half sheet to our Semi-Weekly readers. This half sheet, however, will be found to contain nearly or quite as much new matter as the whole sheet, as the greater part of the latter has been occupied with old matter, designed mainly, as the printers say, to "fill up."

We shall continue to send a full sheet to our Weekly readers, as heretofore.

The Situation.—The News.

Our latest advices indicate no material change in the relative positions of the opposing armies, and a "masterly inactivity," unbroken, except by trivial skirmishes, still broods over the lines. The Federal army on the Rappahannock is mud-bound again, the recent snow storm and the succeeding thaw having rendered the roads impassable. It is now thought, and not without reason, that the seeming activity in the enemy's camp—the beating of drums and firing of rockets, are intended to deceive our leaders, as they have not been accompanied by any substantial change of position, and are apparently causeless. His army, in its present position, protects Washington and the Potomac, and Hooker, in view of the ruinous defeats sustained by his predecessors in command, will, perhaps, content himself as long as he can appease the impatience of the "On to Richmond" party, with keeping our army inactive though vigilant. From the Fredericksburg correspondence of the Richmond Examiner, we learn there is strong reason to believe that Stoneman's force went to Kelly's Ford with no original intention of crossing, but for the purpose merely of capturing a party of Stuart's cavalry, who, Hooker had learned, were to cross the river at that point.

In Tennessee, the falling back of Rosecrans upon Nashville, has greatly altered the aspect of affairs, and conjecture is completely at sea as to the probable effect of this movement on the issue of the approaching campaign. It is generally supposed that the retreat was ordered by Rosecrans with the view of effecting a junction with Grant, to aid in the reduction of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, and in completing the conquest of the Mississippi Valley.

Morgan had a fight at Anderson, Tenn., on the 17th inst., in which he was compelled to fall back before overwhelming numbers. The Yazoo Pass expedition is reported to have been checked by a rebel battery at the mouth of the Tallahatchee. The Yankee fleet consisted of the *Chillicothe*, *De Kalb*, five small gunboats and eight transports. The *Chillicothe*, during the fight, which lasted all day, was seriously damaged, having received sixty-four shots. One shot from our battery killed four and wounded fourteen of the enemy. At last accounts, the fleet was three miles above the battery.

It is to be hoped that Gen. Price, recently assigned to the command of Western Louisiana and Arkansas, will inaugurate at once a vigorous offensive campaign, for Missouri and that portion of Arkansas within the Federal lines have become the theatre of unheard of atrocities.

Charleston and Savannah are still menaced. Dispatches to the New York Herald, from Hilton Head, state that the negro brigade now marching into Florida have taken several important points with many prisoners—that they had captured large quantities of munitions and supplies, and were still driving the enemy before them.

The 50th reg't N. C. T. (Col. J. A. Washington) had a skirmish with the enemy on Monday last, at Deep Gulch, nine miles from Newbern. The enemy fled leaving two or three killed on the field.—No loss on our side.

In the Confederate Congress on the 24th inst., the Senate passed the impressment bill, which had previously passed the House, and the House had passed the Senate bill establishing a Court of Claims.

A Southerner of the *Old South*, writing from Charleston, says: "I never knew what it was to be hungry before I came to South Carolina. He confirms the statement of the *Standard* that the rebels refuse to take our money. 'Consequently,' he says, 'we have to suffer for something to eat.'"

The people of South Carolina, by such conduct, are earning for themselves a character which will long be remembered. What a burning shame that a State which, next to Massachusetts, is responsible for this war, should contemptuously refuse the currency of a sister State, and that too when offered by men who are ready to fight her battles!

LIBERAL AND PATRIOTIC.—We learn that from fifteen to twenty gentlemen of this city have each subscribed \$1,000 to a fund to be used in purchasing corn, to be ground into meal, and supplied to the city and county authorities to distribute to the poor, and the needy families of soldiers in this city and county. The corn is to be purchased in the cheapest market, brought here, ground, and turned over to the persons charged with properly distributing the funds appropriated by the Legislature, the county and city, for the maintenance of those who are needy—requiring only to have their money returned to them without interest or profit.—*Atlanta Confederacy*.

The above example is worthy of imitation. We trust it will be followed generally in this State, and that our planters and farmers who have a surplus of corn and meat, will unite in the movement.

SCARCITY OF CORN IN SAVANNAH.—The *Republican* says that many poor people in Savannah—women and children—are suffering for want of food, and that they cannot get enough of corn meal, owing to the fact that railroad transportation is monopolized by the government; and urges that the government appoint one day in each week when the railroads will be permitted to bring corn and other provisions to our suffering people.

The Prospect of Peace.

What is the prospect? It is the anxious inquiry of thousands.

The Northern Congress has recently passed a conscript law, and placed Mr. Lincoln at the head of it. That body has also suspended the writ of *habeas corpus* in every locality and in every case, at the pleasure of the President. That body has also authorized the almost unlimited issue of treasury notes, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the war. Thus the purse and the sword are in the hands of Mr. Lincoln. He is not only authorized but expected, by the great body of the Northern people, to put forth every energy of the twenty millions over whom he rules, to overwhelm the South. Will he do this? There is no doubt that he will. The Federal armies are stronger in numbers than they were one year ago. They are better soldiers than they were a year ago. They occupy much more of Southern territory than they did a year ago. And every movement on the part of the Federal government points unerringly to the terrible fact, that the war will be prosecuted against us at least during Mr. Lincoln's term. That government is even now engaged in constructing fourteen new iron clads to be used against us.

On the other hand, the Southern Congress has passed a conscript law and placed Mr. Davis at the head of it. The same body has also suspended the writ of *habeas corpus*, or authorized the President to do it in every locality and in every case, at his own pleasure. The same body has also authorized the almost unlimited issue of treasury notes, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the war. Thus the purse and the sword are in the hands of Mr. Davis.

President Lincoln emancipates our slaves and puts arms in their hands; and President Davis makes a speech in Richmond in which he pronounces the great body of the Northern people hyenas. Both sides are mustering their forces by hundreds of thousands for new fields of battle. France cautiously feels her way towards a proposition for a conference between the Federal government and the "Confederate populations," with a view to suggest, quite as cautiously, if such a conference should take place, a settlement of some sort; and England professes the liveliest friendship for the Federal government, while at the same time her capitalists are engaged in her dockyards in constructing war vessels for the Confederate States.

Such, in brief, is the situation. If our readers can see in this condition of things any hope for peace, it is more than we can do.

The results of the next three months will probably decide the contest. If we should defeat the enemy again on the Rappahannock, and at Charleston, and hold the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, and Vicksburg, and if Bragg should maintain his ground in Tennessee, the prospect for us will greatly brighten; but if defeat should befall our armies, and the enemy should take and occupy new ground, and continue to gain and to press us by land and by water, the future will indeed be gloomy. We can only hope for the best and prepare for the worst. This, indeed, "a time to try men's souls." All patience, and energy, and fighting qualities which our people possess are needed now.

But we "must not despair of the Republic."—Peace is exceedingly desirable, but it must come to us honorably. When and how it will come no one can foresee. The way to negotiation cannot be opened by the South, except upon the implied ground that she is willing to surrender to some extent her independence. Offers for negotiation must proceed from the assailing party, or from some third party. If our government should say to the North, we desire an armistice for the purpose of treating with a view to peace, the reply would certainly be, we cannot treat with rebels with arms in their hands. The war will, then, go on. It may continue until both sides are exhausted, and the drama may close with foreign intervention and foreign powers dictating terms of settlement to both; or an effort may be made by our own government, in the last resort, to throw the Southern States into the arms of France or Great Britain.

The House of Representatives at Richmond is still engaged on the tax and currency bill. We are unable to give any of its provisions, as it has been considered for the most part in secret session.

Impressment.

The Richmond papers contain the act to regulate impressments just passed by Congress, which we shall publish in full in our next. This law is probably as well guarded, and is as good a one as could have been enacted on the subject; but with the Richmond *Whig* we think—

"It would be, in the last degree, unwise in the government to rely on impressment for the regular supply of the army. That as a system is the very worst that could be possibly devised. Experience teaches that an invading army in a hostile country can better, more surely, and more cheaply supply itself by purchase than by plunder. If this be true, in case of an invading army in a hostile country, how much stronger must it be where the property seized is that of citizens by its own government? The danger is, and it is great and imminent, that it will demoralize the people, and starve the army.—We have already seen some of its disastrous effects. If persisted in we may expect to see more of them."

The Richmond *Dispatch* styles the recent impressment by Women at Salisbury "a *rien* scene." "*De gustibus non disputandum*."

EUROPEAN NEWS.—In the English House of Lords, Lord Stratford's motion in favor of the recognition of the South, when France is ready, had not been brought forward for consideration. The London *Times* condemns the motion, deprecates any discussion, and urges a strict neutrality.

Cotton in Liverpool was dull at 204. Stock 408, 000 bales, including 68,000 American.

European advices by the *Norwegian* state that Mr. Shiel had an interview with Drouyn D'Lhuys in which he did not conceal his surprise at the idea that the South could ever send representatives to the Congress at Washington.

The Confederate government has contracted a loan in Paris for 60,000,000 francs.

A Confederate loan for £100,000 has been taken in 3 per cents in England, at 77.

The London *Times* says the disposition of the Washington Government to issue letters of marque, and Seward's persistent adherence to the idea that the Federals have met with no reverses, and that there is no insurrection in the South, can only be explained by the belief that the United States desire a foreign war to enable them to have an excuse to acknowledge that the Union is broken.

A Lyons letter says every branch of industry is suffering from the American war.

The Poles seem to be succeeding in their revolution. Meetings sympathizing with them are being held in London. France and England have sent a note to Russia in regard to it.

FAST DAYS.—To-day has been set apart by President Davis, as a day of fasting and prayer. Now, if ever, should the blessings of Heaven be invoked.

Execution of the Conscript Law.

We learn that the enrolling officers in this State have not only been forcing into the ranks stage-drivers, mail contractors, and postmasters, but that the probability is they will attempt to take constables, justices of the peace, and militia officers.

To force stage drivers, mail contractors, and postmasters into the army is to inflict a serious blow upon the postal service, by which the people will be deprived to no small extent of newspapers and of the privilege of hearing from their friends in the army; but these officers are in the service of the Confederate government, and great as may be the injury which will result from conscripting them, we do not see that the State authorities have any power to prevent it. But it is different as to constables, justices of the peace, and militia officers. Constables and justices are the conservators of the peace. It is their duty to protect the weak against the strong—the honest against the dishonest, and to see that the law is observed. The militia officers remain only as monuments of the fact that we once had a militia organization. The great body of the militia has already been conscripted, and the Confederate Constitution, which guarantees to the State "a well regulated militia," is in that respect nullified and disregarded. To order the militia officers into the ranks as conscripts would be to sweep away the last vestige of the militia system.

But these officers are not only useful and highly important to society, but they are State officers.—Without them, society would be disorganized, and the State itself would be dependent on the central government for the maintenance of ordinary police regulations. Can the common government, which is the creature of the States, do any act the result of which will be to break up the governments of the States themselves?—or to render the States in the administration of their domestic officers, dependent on that government?

But there is another and an important view of this matter. It was thought that after exempting all the officers above named, the people of the State would barely be able to raise a supply of provisions for the next year. If, however, they should all be conscripted up to forty years of age, not less than five thousand laborers and producers in various ways will have been forced from us, and that too at the very time when they are pitching their crops. The arrangements which they have made for crops will, as a general rule, come to nothing. Two or three thousand more farms will lie comparatively idle, yielding no increase for subsistence beyond what may be necessary for those who may be left upon them.

It is probable that we have more magistrates and militia officers than are necessary. There are many of them, it is true, who ought to be in the war; but it would be difficult to discriminate and say who should and who should not go; and if one of them is permitted to be conscripted, the principle is yielded as to all.

It seems to be the determination of the administration at Richmond to take the last man from North Carolina. We should be better reconciled to this, if we had reason to believe that the law was enforced with the same rigor in other States.

We repeat, there is a great principle involved in this matter. In the first place, our people are entitled to know, if such be the fact, that the judicial and executive officers of the other States are included in the conscription; and in the second place, to deprive the State of these officers is to that extent to dissolve the State government and to render the States as dependent on the government at Richmond as the Counties are on them. We have reason to believe that Gov. Vance has the subject under consideration. We trust he will take his stand firmly and finally in opposition to a measure, the result of which must be, not only to drain the State of thousands of fighting men in addition to those already in the field, without whose presence and services society may be disorganized and our crops still more seriously diminished, but to render the States still more subservient to their creature, the common government. This is a practical question of State rights, and should be decided accordingly.

The suggestion that we must ignore the rights of the States, and concentrate all power in the common government until the revolution is accomplished, is alike unsound and dangerous. The revolution commenced by separate State action, and the States are contending for individual as well as national existence. If, in the progress of the revolution, they should consent to part with their sovereignty and to prostrate themselves at the feet of a power created by themselves, they will find themselves in the end more blanks in the system, and the great object they had in view defeated. Power once conceded or usurped is never regained without a struggle.

REMARKS.—Colonel William P. Rymun, 2d regiment North Carolina Troops, has resigned. By his resignation Lieut. Col. William R. Cox, of this City, succeeds to the Colonelcy, and Major Walter S. Stallings to the Lieutenant Colonelcy of the second.—*Progress*.

From the faces your fellow-travellers make over their hot coffee now-a-days, you may well imagine how very it is.

During Jackson's term an application was made for the removal of some postmaster or deputy postmaster in one of the Northern States, and it was urged upon the President with a great deal of earnestness and remonstrated with great bitterness against the continuance of this violent political opposition to the continuance of the postmaster's offices, and inure his removal, they told the President that the obnoxious officer had called Gen. Jackson a "d—d grey headed old fellow." "Did he," said the President. "He did." "If I am not mistaken," said Jackson, "that man stormed Stony Point under Wayne, and a man who did that has my permission to be a postmaster and to curse me for the balance of his life."

Ten thousand men from Richmond and as many from Vicksburg, could be spared and brought to Tallahassee in two weeks. With 20,000 more men Bragg could hurl an avalanche against Rosecrans that would finish completely and forever that General and his army. If by such a course we could annihilate the best army the Yankees boast, and ruin the best General they have in the field, and at one and the same time possess the grain producing country of Middle Tennessee and its capital, liberate our friends from the thralldom that oppresses them, feed and clothe our soldiers, increase our army with forty thousand conscripts, and demand a peace of the enemy across the Ohio river—is it not worthy the effort, brother reader? We will not put the query to the War Department. They dread a suggestion from their friends; as much as the bayonets of their enemies.—*Chattanooga Rebel*.

VICE PRESIDENT STEPHENS.—The Richmond correspondent of the Knoxville *Register* asks of Mr. Stephens:

"What has become of him? I have never heard of him in Richmond. He has not been seen in the Senate Chamber, over which I have deemed it his duty to preside. What has become of him? Was he a cipher in the government, and therefore, like Randolph, the late Secretary of War, has he preferred retirement to impotency? Was he not recognized as a part of the government by the President? Then tell me how long will Seddon retain his place? As soon as he becomes familiar with his duties, and undertakes to act on his own responsibility, his head will roll from the block."

GENERAL ITEMS.

The law against negroes coming into the State of Indiana is being rigidly enforced, and portions of the State are being rapidly depopulated. At Plymouth, Marshall County, was fined \$40 for employing a colored hand. He had turned off a white man to make room for the negro.

A correspondent of the *Chattanooga Daily Rebel*, makes the facetious inquiry: "Do homes have souls?" The editor wittily replies, "Certainly they have manes."

Why is twice eleven like twice ten? Because twice eleven are twenty-two, and twice ten are twenty, too.

The people in the mountains of Virginia are making maple sugar in considerable quantities, which sells on the spot at \$1 a lb.

Paul Morphy was recently beaten three out of five games of chess in Paris by M. De Kiviere.

As much good to the country may be accomplished nowadays, by "taking the field" with a plough as with a musket.

A late philosopher says that if anything will make a woman swear, it is looking for her night cap after the lamp's blown out.

Books are standing councilors and preachers—always at hand, and always disinterested; having this advantage over oral instructors, that they are ready to repeat their lesson as often as we please.

If the girls would have roses for their cheeks, they must do as the roses do—to sleep with the lilacs, and get up with the morning glories.

On a very pretty girl's saying to Leigh Hunt, "I am very sad you see," he replied, "Oh, no; you belong to the other Jewish sect; you are very *free* Jews!"

The difference between Nero and Seward is not very wide. One played the fiddle whilst Rome was burning; the other played the *liar* whilst the Union was being dissolved.

A relic of the past has come to light in Boston illustrative of the depreciation of continental currency. It is a receipt taken by Gov. John Hancock, in 1793, showing that he paid sixty dollars for two packs of playing cards, to be used at a party.

The New York *Tribune* states that Duncan, Sherman & Co. received recently through the mail, a package of foreign letters which was lost in 1864. Among the inclosures were \$60,000 of New York 5 per cent. stock.

Victor Hugo has written a tragedy, of which old John Brown is the hero.

A beautiful inscription, it is said, may be found in an Italian church-yard:—Here lies Estella, who transported a large tortoise to heaven in acts of charity, and has gone thither to enjoy it."

Somebody has called childhood "a rosy lawn between the cradle and the schoolhouse."

COTTONS IN THE SOUTH.—The amount of cotton on hand in the Southern Confederacy is estimated at three and a half millions of bales. At fifty cents per pound (fifty per cent. less than it is now worth in foreign markets) it would realize about \$75,000,000—a sum nearly equal to the entire expense of the war up to this time.

About a dozen New Hampshire papers have been stopped, owing to the pressure of the times.

In some parts of Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, a bushel and a half of corn will buy but a pound of sugar, and three bushels of corn or a bushel of wheat will buy one pound of coffee. The price of labor has so increased that the corn crop on thousands of farms will not pay the cost of gathering and preparing for market.

THE SAGACITY OF JOHN VAN BUREN VINDICATED.—Last November, John Van Buren stoutly advocated, as a Democratic humanitarian, the offering of the olive branch to the rebels; but, with the receipt of their defiant answers, in various forms from Richmond, he discovered that the only alternative for the Northern Democracy was the vigorous prosecution of the war, and so he boldly and promptly took his position accordingly. The instructive extracts which we have lately published from numerous rebel journals, fully confirm the sagacity of Mr. Van Buren in taking this position. The rebels will not have peace upon any other terms than those of a complete thrashing to the one side or the other; and even so, then, let it be. John Van Buren has taken the only road of safety to the Northern Democracy.—*N. Y. Herald*.

PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS OF STARVATION IN LONDON.—Lord Sydney Godolphin Osborne writes to the London *Times* concerning the physical process of famine: "When famine destroys life it may do so under two different conditions. Stoppage of all food, such as that we have read of in the case of the shipwrecked, brings on in a short time a train of symptoms which quickly end in the most horrible of deaths. The other condition is that, where the supply of food is in abundance, gradually becomes diminished in quality, then in quantity, passing to still another stage, where it is not only altogether deficient in quantity each day to rebuild nature's waste, and thus provide for the next day's life."

On this stinging of physical starvation supervenes mental depression, loss of appetite; thus, there is an impediment to the intake even of that measure of food which, itself insufficient, is still necessary to keep up some existence.

Strange to say, at this stage of depression in mind and of gradual waste of the body, the sufferer complains but little, if at all; there is a tendency to sleep, rest—anywhere, anywhere—yet little evidence of pain. There is, however, to the skilled eye, a cast of eye unmistakable—the children look aged beyond their years; adults move and speak with a gait and utterance which seem to shun all effort.

Falling fever, famine goes on to run its own well marked course. I write from what I and many others saw, watched, and noted. With no real complaint developed, with little real pain, there is an increase of lassitude in the adult, a want of all childish energy in the young; a species of patient, sullen, hopeless despondency masters the whole man. They have atrophy now showing itself in many ways. The hair quits the head in patches, the ankles swell, the skin is bloodless, the eyes sunken, at this stage food fails, medicine fails, care cannot rescue. It is a mere matter of time; few, if any, recover—few seem to wish it.

THE WHEAT CRISIS.—We are not advised as to the wheat crop in this State, but are glad to see occasional statements in the South Carolina and State *Edgefield (S. C.) Advertiser* says: "What is taking a beautiful start to grow off, and there is no reason yet for misgivings as to the crop. In the western part of this district it is said to be looking uncommonly promising."

The Athens *(Geo.) Courier* says: "Every thing seems to indicate that there will be an abundant wheat crop this year. No matter however abundant it may be, there will be a demand for all of it. A large breadth of land is sown, we learn—the crop is backward in appearance, but an excellent stand on the ground. The yield will be no doubt be very heavy at harvest."

And the Rome *(Geo.) Courier* says: "From what we have seen and heard, the wheat crop is looking fine and promises well."

NEWSPAPERS.—The Richmond *Enquirer* has a list of the newspapers now published in Virginia, and they number only 17, of which 10 are in Richmond and only 7 in all the rest of the State, viz: 1 at Petersburg, 2 at Lynchburg, 1 at Staunton, 1 at Harrisonburg, 1 at Danville and 1 at Abingdon. We were aware that there had been great mortality among the press of Virginia, but had no idea that so few survived.

In North Carolina we have lost about one-half of the papers since the war commenced, but we can still count 26, viz: at Raleigh 8, Charlotte 3, Greensboro 2, Fayetteville 2, Wilmington 1, Hillsborough 1, Milton 1, Salisbury 1, Asheville 1, Hendersonville 1, Tawborough 1, Wadesborough 1, Salem 1, Winston 1, Statesville 1.—*Fly. Observer*.

BIO PROPRIS.—The Crenshaw Woolen Factory, of Richmond, Va., with a cash capital of \$100,000 has declared and divided a dividend of \$500,000 in \$100,000 subject for dividend, should the directors think it desirable.

A paper mill for the year 1860, 1861, and 1862, on a capital of \$41,000, a profit of \$235,750, of which 175,000 was made in the year 1862. And a stockholder of the Balduino Manufacturing Company received since the war began, on \$30,000 worth of shares, dividends amounting to \$6,450, all of which he has given to the army, considering it improper for him to extort money.

For the Standard.

THE JUSTICES OF UNION COUNTY.

Alas! for their justice, humanity and gratitude. My God and the soldiers forgive them for their unwillingness to prevent the spread of small pox among the poor and needy. In Germany, where vaccination was known, a doctor was employed for each district who inoculated every child, and there was a penalty upon parents who failed to have their children inoculated. I say the Justices are unwilling to prevent the spread of this loathsome disease. I will prove it. The Justices are all vaccinated, and so are their children and negroes.—There are hundreds of poor families in Union county who are not, and never will be; they are not able to pay a doctor for it. If the doctors are willing to vaccinate without pay, they are not willing to go to every house and do so. We have had small pox in Wilson, Wayne, Wake, Orange, Alamance, and many other counties. In fact, there are few counties where we have not had it.

Mr. Rogers, of Alamance, came from Richmond, where he had been on a visit to his son—was seized with small pox—deserted by his neighbors, and died, no one going near to bury him for several days. An Irishman was finally found who performed the necessary duty. In Orange, the Wm. Carlton, his wife, his son and a servant, all died. Mr. Carlton had been on a visit to his son, in camp near Richmond. He was not aware that he was even near any person who had the disease. Vaccination would have saved his family. It would be well to have a permanent law, as in Germany, compelling all parents to attend to the subject of vaccination, and paying doctors to vaccinate.

What strange and short-sighted creatures these Union Justices must be—what slaves to party!—Were it not so, their action at last Court to prevent the spread of this most loathsome disease would appear to themselves in no other light than that of Christian sentimentality. Nothing but the progress of the disease could have prompted them to compel the poor, and to make it a matter of judicial record. The County Court of Union had as well enter a decree against every enterprise of Christian benevolence—against the spirit that hunts outcasts of poverty and crime for relief and reform—against the spirit that raises hospitals for sick soldiers—against the spirit that erects asylums for the insane, and schools for the dumb and blind.

An old lady at my elbow accounts for it all by saying Conference must have forgotten to send a circuit rider into Union. I venture no man voted for the order who reads the *Standard*. I venture every Justice of the Peace who voted for the order voted for Johnson for Governor. I venture those of them who make corn to sell, at a high price. I venture they will all live to regret their action upon the subject of small pox.

When the Legislature passed the act, it was not supposed that people of wealth would avail themselves of it. It was intended for the special benefit of those who are in the army at \$11 per month.—Magistrates, except by reason of their office, from conscription. They go beyond their office when they enter up decrees against the spread of the small pox in the families of those who have gone out to battle, not for their wives and children, but for their property.

The Governor of South Carolina has issued his proclamation, prohibiting for the space of thirty days, from the 18th of March, 1863, the exportation beyond the limits of said State, any salt, tallow, pork, beef, corn, meal, wheat, flour, rice, peas, potatoes, or other provisions of any description whatever, except by Quartermasters, Commissioners and other authorized Confederate agents, and prohibiting the carrying provisions for the army who must exhibit satisfactory evidence of their official character and authority; persons from other States who purchase for their own private use and consumption and not for resale, who shall make oath to that effect before the next magistrate previous to the removal of the articles purchased, which oath the magistrate shall preserve and furnish for the use of the Secretary of the Circuit when required; agents of counties, towns, corporations, and Soldiers' Boards of Relief, of other States, who exhibit satisfactory proof of their authority to purchase such provisions in behalf of such counties, towns, corporations or Soldiers' Boards of Relief, for public use or for distribution, and furnish charges, receipts for resale or profit. Salt made by non-residents and cargoes entering our ports from abroad are also excepted.

TAXES.—A TIMELY SUGGESTION.—The Richmond *Whig* says that "the passion for high taxes has become a perfect mania. It is said that the people are grasping and entreating their Representatives to pile up the taxes mountain high—the higher the better! We do not know who these people are.—We are quite certain they are not the people who have to pay the taxes."

The Whig is undoubtedly right. The people expect a tax law, as a necessity, and for the sake of the great cause will cheerfully submit to a measure of overroding the thing, and producing deep satisfaction by requiring more than the people can afford to pay. It is true that some are able to pay enormously—those who are making enormously—but it is also true that a very large portion of the people, including those in the army, are less able to pay than ever. Yet, in a general tax law the people of soldiers at home must be taxed, though possibly unproductive because of their absence.

We say to Congress, therefore, beware! You could not commit a more unfortunate blunder than to levy such a tax as it is reported is nearly matured, stated variously at a hundred millions, a hundred and fifty millions, two hundred millions, and even four hundred millions of dollars! Such taxes cannot be paid. The State and county taxes in North Carolina, for instance, will this year be double what they ever were before. Yet they may not reach three millions. North Carolina's proportion of the tax will be about one-tenth—say from ten to forty millions of dollars, according to the estimates of the whole. It is impossible for this State to satisfy all that it will be impossible to collect such taxes.—*Fly. Observer*.

TRANSPORTATION.—HOW IT IS DONE.—SPECULATORS VS. RAILROAD MEN.—The Columbus *(Miss.) Republic* has the following:

"A little incident came to our knowledge of a certain party, who had purchased a large amount of wool and a trifle over one thousand dollars worth of sugar. The wool was especially valuable, and the sugar was also of great value. After some maneuver on the part of the owner, he got a car and loaded it up, paying handsomely for the same, putting the sugar in sacks. When the car came to be switched on the track, the switchman demanded his part, and received, we believe, \$40. Soon after the engineer came along and declared that he never would take such wool and sugar through without half the sugar. It was given him! Soon after the conductor came along, and stated that the wool could go, but he must have the other half of the sugar. There was no appeal, and the other half followed the first. The wool came through. The owner had also paid freight in advance for both wool and sugar.

So we go. Our people may suffer for the necessities of life, but our soldiers and men on half rations for the want of supplies, that speculators and railroad men may make a fortune."

The Governor of Florida has issued a proclamation appealing to the planters not to plant any cotton, but to use the most active efforts on their part to produce the greatest amount of provisions attainable by the means at their command.

It is of the essence of good government—of a free government of just and equal laws—to deal impartially and uprightly with all its citizens. Public burdens are then equally distributed and are borne with cheerfulness by all. Wrong and oppression will invariably excite discontent in the bosoms of those who are the victims of it. Why (it will be said by thousands) should we make sacrifices for a cause which is only designed to aggrandize this, that or the other favorite, by undue and disproportionate benefits at our expense?

To prevent the growth of such a feeling